

Reading Suggestions From Wapiti Regional Library
Grade Eight Reading List

Title: After Eli

Author: Rupp, Rebecca

Description: After the death of his older brother, Daniel Anderson became engrossed in recording details about dead people, how they died, and whether their deaths mattered, but he is eventually drawn back into interaction with the living.

Title: As Easy As Falling Off the Face of the Earth

Author: Perkins, Lynne Rae

Description: A teenaged boy encounters one comedic calamity after another when his train strands him in the middle of nowhere, and everything comes down to luck.

Title: Can I See Your I. D.?: True Stories of False Identities

Author: Hoppe, Paul (Illustrator); Barton, Chris

Description: True crime, desperation, fraud, and adventure: these ten vignettes offer riveting insight into mind-blowing masquerades.

Title: The Chronicles of Harris Burdick: Fourteen Amazing Authors Tell the Tales

Author: Van Allsburg, Chris (Author, Illustrator)

Description: An inspired collection of short stories by an all-star cast of best-selling storytellers based on the thought-provoking illustrations in Chris Van Allsburg's *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*.

Title: A Corner of White

Author: Moriarty, Jaclyn

Description: Fourteen-year-old Madeleine of Cambridge, England, struggling to cope with poverty and her mother's illness, and fifteen-year-old Elliot of the Kingdom of Cello in a parallel world where colors are villainous and his father is missing, begin exchanging notes through a crack between their worlds and find they can be of great help to each other.

Title: Dragonfly

Author: Golding, Julia

Description: The marriage alliance between two radically different kingdoms seems endangered when the two teens actually meet.

Title: Egg & Spoon

Author: Maguire, Gregory

Description: In 1905 czarist Russia, an impoverished country girl Elena and the aristocratic Ekaterina meet and set in motion an escapade that includes mistaken identify, a monk locked in a tower, a prince traveling incognito, and the witch Baba Yaga.

Title: The Face on the Milk Carton

Author: Cooney, Caroline B.

Description: A young girl is shocked to discover the face on a milk carton is her face when she was young. Are her parents her real parents, or was she kidnapped as a young child?

Title: The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion and the Fall of Imperial Russia

Author: Fleming, Candace

Description: When Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II, inherited the throne in 1894, he was unprepared to do so. With their four daughters (including Anastasia) and only son, a hemophiliac, Nicholas and his

reclusive wife, Alexandra, buried their heads in the sand, living a life of opulence as World War I raged outside their door and political unrest grew into the Russian Revolution.

Title: Far Far Away

Author: McNeal, Tom

Description: When Jeremy Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate Ginger Boltinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown.

Title: Forensic Identification: Putting a Name and Face on Death

Author: Murray, Elizabeth A

Description: Through a wide range of fascinating scientific methods—including DNA testing, facial reconstruction, dental records, blood analysis, fingerprinting, and x-rays—forensic specialists work to piece together the stories that will give names back to the unknown dead and missing.

Title: Goodbye Stranger

Author: Stead, Rebecca

Description: As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvacious Em, crusader Tab, and a curious new friend—or more than friend—Sherm, she finds the answer she has been seeking since she barely survived an accident at age eight: "What is my purpose?"

Title: Happy Kid!

Author: Gauthier, Gail

Description: After his mother bribes him into reading a self-help book on how to form satisfying relationships and enjoy a happy life, cynical eighth-grader Kyle finds there may be more to the book than he realized.

Title: The Hero and the Crown

Author: McKinley, Robin

Description: Aerin, with the guidance of the wizard Luthe and the help of the blue sword, wins the birthright due her as the daughter of the Damarian king and a witchwoman of the mysterious, demon-haunted North.

Title: The Hired Girl

Author: Schlitz, Laura Amy

Description: Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love. But what hope is there for adventure, beauty, or art on a hardscrabble farm in Pennsylvania where the work never ends? Over the summer of 1911, Joan pours her heart out into her diary as she seeks a new, better life for herself -- because maybe, just maybe, a hired girl cleaning and cooking for six dollars a week can become what a farm girl could only dream of -- a woman with a future. (Inspired by the author's own grandmother's journal.)

Title: The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure

Author: Sandler, Martin W.

Description: In 1897, winter came early, bringing storms and ice packs that caught eight American whale ships and three hundred sailors off guard. Here is the incredible story of three men sent by President McKinley to rescue them.

Title: The Kite Rider

Author: McCaughrean, Geraldine

Description: In the colorful, dangerous world of 13th-century China, 12-year-old Haoyou escapes from his family's poverty by becoming a kite rider.

Title: Leviathan

Author: Westerfeld, Scott; Thompson, Keith (Illustrator)

Description: Prince Alek finds allies as he flees from the Clanker Powers and their mechanical weapons in this steampunk adventure.

Title: A Long Walk to Water

Author: Park, Linda Sue

Description: When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on a true story.

Title: The Longitude Prize

Author: Dash, Joan; Petricic, Dusan (Illustrator)

Description: John Harrison, a British clockmaker, spends 40 years in the 18th century working on a machine that could be used to accurately determine longitude, the east-west location, at sea.

Title: The Loud Silence of Francine Green

Author: Cushman, Karen

Description: In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values.

Title: Lucy Long Ago: Uncovering the Mystery of Where We Came From

Author: Thimmesh, Catherine

Description: This story of scientific sleuthing invites readers to wonder what our ancestors were like and recounts the discovery of the remains of Lucy, the world's most famous hominid.

Title: More Than a Label: Why What You Wear and Who You're With Doesn't Define Who You Are

Author: Muharrar, Aisha

Description: Drawn from a survey of more than one thousand teenagers, first-person stories help to address the problems inherent in labeling people.

Title: My Brother Sam is Dead

Author: Collier, James Lincoln; Collier, Christopher

Description: Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

Title: On the Day I Died: Stories from the Grave

Author: Fleming, Candace

Description: Set in White Cemetery, an actual graveyard outside Chicago, each story takes place during a different time period from the 1860's to the present, and ends with the narrator's death.

Title: Peak

Author: Smith, Roland

Description: Peak's famous dad wants him to be the youngest person ever to climb Mount Everest.

Title: Race: A History Beyond Black and White

Author: Aronson, Marc

Description: Race. You know it at a glance: he's black; she's white. They're Asian; we're Latino. Racism. I'm better; she's worse. Those people do those kinds of things. We all know it's wrong to make these judgments, but they come faster than thought. Why? Where did those feelings come from? Why are they so powerful?

Title: Red Moon at Sharpsburg

Author: Wells, Rosemary

Description: As the Civil War breaks out, India, a young Southern girl, summons her sharp intelligence and the courage she didn't know she had to survive the war that threatens to destroy her family, her Virginia home, and the only life she has ever known.

Title: Rot & Ruin

Author: Maberry, Jonathan

Description: In a post-apocalyptic world where fences and border patrols guard the few people left from the zombies, Benny Imura is finally convinced that he must follow in his older brother's footsteps and become a bounty hunter.

Title: Ruined

Author: Morris, Paula

Description: Rebecca goes to New Orleans to stay with her aunt and meets a ghost girl named Lisette.

Title: Rush for the Gold: Mystery at the Olympics

Author: Feinstein, John

Description: Two teenaged aspiring journalists who are dating solve a mystery at the 2012 Olympic Games, while one simultaneously competes for a gold medal in swimming.

Title: The Schwa Was Here

Author: Shusterman, Neal

Description: A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone.

Title: Sports Shorts: An Anthology of Short Stories

Author: Bruchac, Joseph; Trueman, Terry; Singer, Marilyn; Lubar, David

Description: A collection of eight semi-autobiographical stories about the authors' experiences with sports while growing up.

Title: Steelheart

Author: Sanderson, Brandon

Description: At age eight, David watched as his father was killed by an Epic, a human with superhuman powers, and now, ten years later, he joins the Reckoners--the only people who are trying to kill the Epics and end their tyranny.

Title: The Sword That Cut the Burning Grass: a Samurai Mystery

Author: Hoobler, Dorothy; Hoobler, Thomas

Description: In his latest adventure in eighteenth-century Japan, fourteen-year-old samurai apprentice Seikei, with the help of a servant girl and an imperious old man, sets out to rescue the young Emperor Yasuhito from his kidnappers.

Title: The Trouble in Me

Author: Gantos, Jack

Description: Fourteen-year-old Jack falls under the spell of a delinquent Florida neighbor and gets way more than he bargained for...

Title: War Horse

Author: Morpurgo, Michael

Description: World War I has started and the military needs horses to move equipment, charge the enemy, and carry wounded soldiers off the battlefield. Joey, a farm horse is sold to the Army. Joey misses the farmer's son, Albert, and spends the war years wondering if the war will ever end and if he will ever see Albert again.

Title: We Want You to Know: Kids Talk about Bullying

Author: Ellis, Deborah

Description: Presents interviews with students who have been bullied, as they describe their experiences with peers, parents, teachers, and school administrators, along with advice on the best methods that can be used to stop bullying behavior.

Title: A Wizard of Earthsea

Author: Le Guin, Ursula K.; Robbins, Ruth (Illustrator)

Description: Young magician Gont inadvertently lets loose an evil force that he must confront later in life when he has mastered the magical arts.

Title: Woods Runner

Author: Paulsen, Gary

Description: From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community.

Title: Written In Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland

Author: Walker, Sally M.

Description: This book reports on the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort, in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand the people who lived in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s.

Title: The Year of the Bomb

Author: Kidd, Ronald

Description: In 1995 California, as "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" is filmed in their hometown, thirteen-year-old Arnie discovers a real enemy when he and three friends go against a young government agent determined to find communists at a nearby university or on the movie set.

Title: Monkey Beach

Author: Robinson, Eden

Description: Combines both joy and tragedy in a harrowing yet restrained story of grief and survival, and of a family on the edge of heartbreak. In the first English-language novel to be published by a Haisla writer, Eden Robinson offers a rich celebration of life in the Native settlement of Kitamaat, on the coast of British Columbia. The story grips the reader from the beginning. It is the morning after the narrator's brother has gone missing at sea; the mood is tense in the family house, as speculations remain unspoken. Jimmy is a prospective Olympic swimmer, seventeen years old and on the edge of proposing to his beautiful girlfriend Karaoke. As his elder sister, Lisa, faces possible disaster, she chain-smokes and drifts into thoughts of their lives so far. She recalls the time when she and Jimmy saw the sasquatch, or b'gwus – and this sighting introduces the novel's fascinating undercurrent of characters from the spirit

world. These ghostly presences may strike the reader as mysterious or frightening, but they provide Lisa with guidance through a difficult coming of age.

Title: This Changes Everything

Author: Klein, Naomi

Description: Argues that climate change isn't just another issue to be neatly filed between taxes and health care. It's an alarm that calls us to fix an economic system that is already failing us in many ways.

Title: OCDaniel

Author: King, Wesley

Description: A coming-of-age story about a boy whose life revolves around hiding his obsessive compulsive disorder—until he gets a mysterious note that changes everything. Daniel is the back-up punter for the Erie Hills Elephants. Which really means he's the water boy. He spends football practice perfectly arranging water cups—and hoping no one notices. Actually, he spends most of his time hoping no one notices his strange habits—he calls them Zaps: avoiding writing the number four, for example, or flipping a light switch on and off dozens of times over. He hopes no one notices that he's crazy, especially his best friend Max, and Raya, the prettiest girl in school. His life gets weirder when another girl at school, who is unkindly nicknamed Psycho Sara, notices him for the first time. She doesn't just notice him: she seems to peer through him. Then Daniel gets a note: "I need your help," it says, signed, Fellow Star child—whatever that means. And suddenly Daniel, a total no one at school, is swept up in a mystery that might change everything for him.